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THE BABYLONIAN TABLETS IN THE COLLECTION OF GEORGE VAUX, JR.

BY GEORGE A. BARTON
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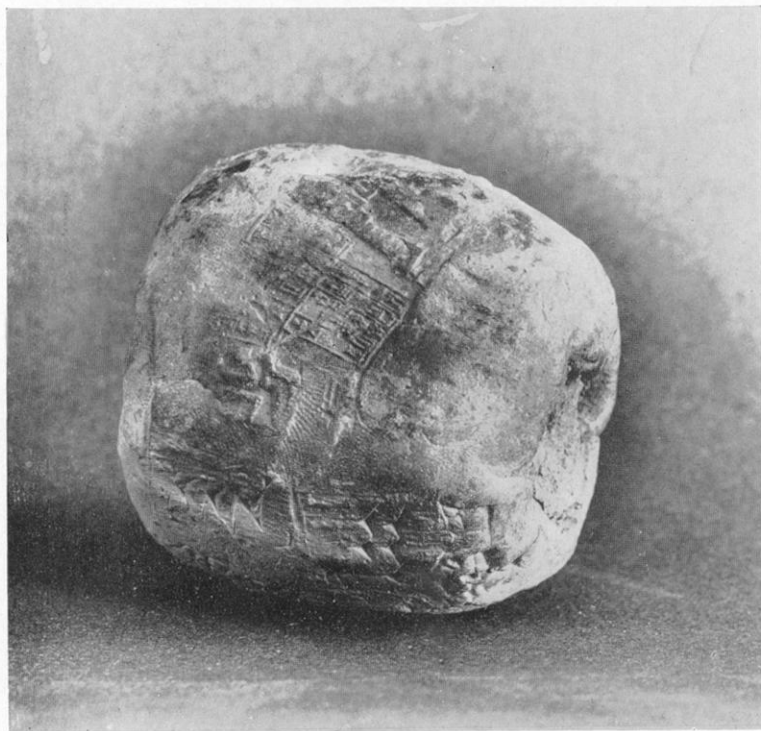
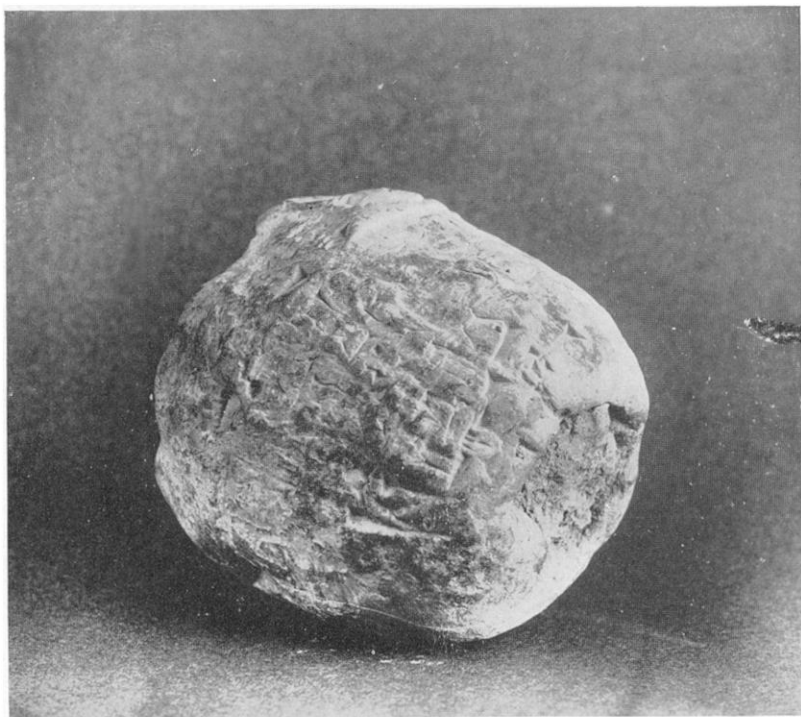
With the exception of the Gudea cone, No. 8, these texts are all from the period of the dynasty of Ur, 2300-2200 B.C. All of them except Nos. 6 and 7 were purchased some years ago, and come, probably, from Telloh. Nos. 6 and 7 were purchased during the winter of 1911-12 and probably come from Drehem. This inference is confirmed in the case of No. 7 by the occurrence of the month name ITU EZEN-^dME-KI-GAL, which does not occur on Telloh texts, but is of frequent occurrence on Drehem tablets.¹ Nos. 1 and 2 are "messenger tablets" similar to those described by Thureau-Dangin in *Comptes rendus*, 1902, pp. 88 f., by Barton, *Haverford Library Collection of Cuneiform Tablets*, II, 10 ff., and King, *History of Sumer and Akkad*, 290 ff.

No. 1

This tablet is 2 inches long, being broken at one end; $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide and $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. It reads as follows:

OBVERSE	OBVERSE
1. V QA GAŠ V QA ZI	1. 5 QA drink, 5 QA flour,
2. I NI À-GAM	2. 1 flask of oil,
3. GIMIL-URU SUKKAL	3. Gimil-uru, messenger;
4. III QA GAŠ II QA ZI	4. 3 QA drink, 2 QA flour,
5. I NI À-GAM	5. 1 flask of oil,
6. GIMIL- ^d IM GÀL-RIM	6. Gimil- ^d Adad, runner;
7. III QA GAŠ II QA ZI	7. 3 QA drink, 2 QA flour,
8. I NI À-GAM	8. 1 flask of oil,
9. SÚ-ŠA-DÚG-GUD GÀL-RIM	9. Sushaduggud, runner;
10. ^{giš} GIŠIMMAR-KU GIN-NA-ME	10. to the palm-trees they went.
11. V QA GAŠ III QA ZI	11. 5 QA drink, 3 QA flour,
12. I NI À-GAM	12. 1 flask of oil,

¹ See Genouillac, *Tablettes de Dréhem*, Paris, 1911, his *La trouvaille de Dréhem*, Paris, 1911; Langdon, *Tablets from the Archives of Drehem*, Paris, 1911, and *Cuneiform Texts*, XXXII, London, 1912.



TWO VIEWS OF MR. VAUX'S BABYLONIAN LABEL (No. 7)

OBSERVE

13. MA-^dDU-MU SUKKAL
14. KU GIN-NA
15. QA ZI

OBSERVE

13. Ma-^dDumu, messenger,
14. to he went.
15. QA flour,

(Two or three lines are broken away at the end of the obverse and one or two at the beginning of the reverse.)

REVERSE

1. QA ZI
2. Æ-GAM
3. SI-GAB-KIB
4. V QA GAŠ V QA ZI
5. I NI A-GAM
6. BA-BA-A GAL-^{giš}KU-GU-LA
7. V QA GAŠ 3 QA ZI
8. I NI Æ-GAM
9. NE-NE-A SUKKAL
10. III QA GAŠ II QA ZI
11. I NI Æ-GAM
12. I-ŠAR-RA-NU GÀL-RIM
13. SU AMA-DA GIN-NA
14. III QA GAŠ II QA ZI
15. I NI Æ-GAM
16. A-LI-I^h GÀL-RIM
17. ZIG-GA U XV^{kam}
18. ITU DIM-KÙ

REVERSE

1. QA flour,
2. [1] flask [of oil],
3. SIGABKIB
4. 5 QA drink, 5 QA flour,
5. 1 flask of oil,
6. Babā, long-spear man;
7. 5 QA drink, 3 QA flour,
8. 1 flask of oil,
9. Nenea, messenger,
10. 3 QA drink, 2 QA flour,
11. 1 flask of oil,
12. Isharranu, runner,
13. for the skin of the wild-ox they went;
14. 3 QA drink, 2 QA flour,
15. 1 flask of oil,
16. Alikh, runner.
17. Given out, day 15th,
18. of the month Dimku.²

No. 2

This tablet is $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, and $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. It reads as follows:

OBSERVE

1. V QA GAŠ ŠÀ [URU]
2. GU-KÁ-^dBABBAR DUMU . .
3. XXX QA GAŠ
4. NIM ŠI-MA-RUM^{ki}
5. GIR GU-KÁ-^dBABBAR
6. ŠI-MA-RUM^{ki}-TA GIN . .
7. V QA GAŠ ŠÀ URU
8. I GUR GAŠ šam^{sa} KAS-KU
9. GAL-^dEN-KI GAL-^{giš}KU-GU-LA
10. KI-MAŠ^{ki}-KU GIN-NA

OBSERVE

1. 5 QA drink in [the city]
2. Guka-Babbar, son of;
3. 30 QA drink,
4. Governor of Shimaru,
5. GIR-officer, Guka-Babbar,
6. from Shimaru he came.
7. 5 QA drink in the city,
8. 1 GUR sa-plant-drink for the road,
9. Gal-Ea, long-spear-man,
10. to Kimash he went.

² The Sixth month.

REVERSE

1. V QA GAŠ ŠÀ URU
2. I GUR GAŠ šam^{sa}
KAS-KU
3. A-Aḥ^dBABBAR GÀL-
giš^{sa}KU-GU-LA
4. AN-ŠA-AN^{ki}-KU GIN . .
5. V QA GAŠ ŠÀ [URA]
6. SÛ-ŠA-DUG[-GUD RIM]
7. SA-BU-UM^{ki}-[TA] G[IN-NA]
8. X QA GAŠ ŠÀ URU
9. 2 GUR GAŠ šam^{sa} KAS-KU
10. SAG-^dDUN-GI RIM
11. A-DAM-DUN^{ki}-KU GIN
12. ITU DIM-KU

REVERSE

1. 5 QA drink in the city,
2. 1 GUR sa-plant-drink for the road,
3. Ākh-Babbar, long-spear-man,
4. to Anshan he went.
5. 5 QA drink in the city,
6. Sushaduggud, runner,³
7. from Sabu he came.
8. 10 QA drink in the city,
9. 2 GUR of sa-plant-drink for the road,
10. Sag-Dungi, runner,
11. to Adamdun he went.
12. Month Dimku.

No. 3

This is a receipt for money, dated in the 7th year of Gimil-Sin, king of Ur. The tablet, which measures $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, is much defaced on the reverse and is crumbling. It reads:

OBSERVE

1. VIII MA-NA XV GIN ŠI-IV-GÁL
X LAL I ŠE AZAG
2. AZAG GIŠ-NI-KA
3. KI PA-AL-NE
4. GAL-^dDUMU-ZI
5. ŠU-BA-TI

OBSERVE

1. 8 Mana, $15\frac{1}{4}$ shekels, 9 šE of money,
2. money for wood-oil,
3. from Paalne
4. Gal-Dumuzi
5. received.

REVERSE

1. ITU
2. MU ^dGIMIL-^dEN-ZU LUGAL-E MA-
DA ZA-AB-ŠA-LI^{ki} MU-ḥUL

REVERSE

1. Month,
2. the year the divine Gimil-Sin, the king, the land Zabshali destroyed.

No. 4

This tablet is an account of skins, dated in the 9th year of Bur-Sin, the predecessor of Gimil Sin. It is $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{5}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches wide, and $\frac{5}{8}$ inches thick. It reads as follows:

³ This is supplied from No. 1, 9.

OBSERVE

1. III SU ĠUD
2. II SU AMAR-GUD
3. III SU GUD AL ĠUL
4. I SU ĠUL GUD
5. IV SU ĠÍR
6. II SU AMAR ĠÍR

REVERSE

1. VIII SU ĠUL ĠÍR
2. LII SU ĠÍR-A-ĠÍR
3. ĠUL-ĠUL SÁG SU
4. III SU GUD II SU AMAR-GUD
5. VII SU GUD AL ĠUL
6. I SU ĠUL GUD IV SU ĠÍR
7. II SU AMAR-ĠÍR
8. ŠA GAN KÚ-LI
9. MU BUR-^dEN-ZU [EN NANN]AR
[KAR]-ZI-DA BA[-A ŠU]
10. ITU EZEN-^dBA-[U]

OBSERVE

1. 3 skins of oxen,
2. 2 skins of bull-calves,
3. 3 skins of grown oxen, damaged,
4. 1 damaged skin of an ox,
5. 4 skins of asses,
6. 2 skins of asses' colts,

REVERSE

1. 8 damaged skins of asses,
2. 52 skins of wild asses.⁴
3. There were damaged of good skins,
4. 3 skins of oxen, 2 skins of bull-calves,
5. 7 skins of grown oxen, damaged,
6. 1 damaged skin of an ox, 4 skins of asses,
7. 2 skins of asses' colts
8. In Gankuli.
9. the year Bur-Sin became high-priest of Nannar Karzida.
10. Month of the feast of Bau.

No. 5

This tablet is a receipt for unfermented liquor, received as taxes. The receipt of the scribe was rolled over the whole tablet, making it a veritable palimpsest. It is dated in a year which is, apparently, identical with the second year of Ur-Engur. It measures $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, and $\frac{9}{16}$ inches thick. It reads:

OBSERVE

1. XL QA GAŠ-ŠAG
2. SÀ-DÚG PA-AL
3. KI MA-TE-NINI-TE

REVERSE

1. DUB GIMIL-^dNIN-ŠAH
2. U I^{kam}
3. ITU DIM-KÙ
4. MU EN ININNA BA-A-GA

SEAL. GIMIL-^dNIN-ŠAH

OBSERVE

1. 40 QA of sweet drink,
2. tax of the PA-AL officer,
3. from the boat Teninite,

REVERSE

1. on account of Gimil-Ninshakh,
2. day first,
3. Month Dimku,
4. the year the king was made high priest of Ishtar.
Gimil-Ninshakh.

⁴Cf. M. 181.

No. 6

This is a case tablet. It measures over the case $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. The case is broken at one corner, so that the inner tablet is seen. Parts of two lines of the inner tablet are visible. Over the inscription on the case the seal has been rolled, so that the under writing is in some instances destroyed. The text reads:

OBERSE

1. I UDU GIŠ
2. II BIR GAL G[IŠ]
3. DUB GÁL-[^d]E[N-ZU]
4. II UDU GIŠ
5. DUB MA-AN-ZID-DA
6. DUMU GAL-SUKKAL-AN-NA
7. KI UR-^dGU-LA-MA-TA

REVERSE

1. UR-^d
2. ŠU-BA-TI
3. ITU À-KI-TI-TA
4. ITU ŠE-KIN-KUD-KU
5. MU MA

OBERSE

1. 1 Ram
2. 2 large buck lambs,
3. on account of Gal-Sin;
4. 2 rams
5. on account of Manzida,
6. son of Galsukkal-Anu,
7. from Ur-Gulama,

REVERSE

1. Ur-
2. received.
3. From the month Akiti⁵
4. to the month Shekinkud;⁶
5. the year the ship

SEAL

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. MA-AN-NA | 1. Ma-Anu, |
| 2. DUMU HU-PI-PI | 2. son of Khupipi. |

No. 7

No. 7 is a label. In size it approaches the largest of those of Barnamtarra, the wife of Lugalanda, published by Allotte de la Fuye in his *Documents Présargoniques*. It is a clay ball perforated by a large hole. The ball is of somewhat irregular shape; it is flattened at the equator by the impression of the seal. The cylinder thus formed is $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, and 2 inches in diameter. Over the inscription the seal of the scribe was rolled until, as in the case of 5 and 6, a palimpsest was formed. The seal was not as long as

⁵ The seventh month.⁶ Twelfth month.

the lines of writing, so their ends escaped its impressions, and are still clear. It bears the date of the seventh year of Gimil-Sin. It reads:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. XVIII C XL UDU BIR ^{ba-a} | 1. 1840 sheep (and) lambs |
| 2. KI NU-ÜR-GI-NI-DU | 2. from Nuurginidu |
| 3. BA-GID | 3. were taken |
| 4. ITU SE-KIN-KUD-TA | 4. from the month Shekinkud ⁷ |
| 5. ITU EZEN- ^d ME-KI-GÁL-KU | 5. to the month of the feast of
Mekigal, |
| 6. ITU XII ^{kam} | 6. 12 months. |
| 7. MU ^d GIMIL- ^d EN-ZU | 7. Year the divine Gimil-Sin, |
| 8. LUGAL [SIS-A] ^{B^{ki}} | 8. king of Ur |
| 9. MA MA ³ -GE | 9. the coun- |
| 10. DA ZA-AB-ŠA | 10. try Zaabsha- |
| 11. LI ^{ki} MU-ĜUL | 11. li devastated. |
| 12. E-EGÍR | 12. House of Egír. |

SEAL

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| I, 1. ^d [GIMIL- ^d EN]-ZU | I, 1. The divine Gimil-Sin, |
| 2. LUGAL-[E] | 2. king of |
| 3. SIS-AB ^{ki} -MA | 3. Ur, |
| 4. [ŠA] MA-DA ZA(?) -AB-[ŠA(?)-
LI(?) ^{ki} ?] | 4. and the country Zaabshali(?) |
| II, 1. LUGAL-DA | II, 1. Lugalda, |
| 2. DUB-ŠAR | 2. scribe, |
| 3. DUMU UR- ^d DUMU-ZI-GE | 3. Son of Ur-Dumuzi, |
| 4. URU-ZU | 4. thy servant. |

No. 8

This is an inscribed cone of Gudea of rather inferior make. The inscription is identical with that published in *Découvertes*, Pl. 27, No. 3, and translated by Amiaud, *ibid.*, p. xxxi, and *Records of the Past*, II, 103 ff. The same text is inscribed on a brick published in *Découvertes*, Pl. 37, No. 7, on a tablet, *ibid.*, Pl. 29, No. 2, and a cone, *ibid.*, Pl. 38. They have been translated by Le Gac, *ZA*, VII, 13, and Thureau-Dangin, *Inscriptions de Sumer et d'Akkad*, 201; also *Sumerischen und akkadischen Königsinschriften*, 143. The writer has had in his possession for twenty years a more perfectly

⁷ This shows that Shekinkud was still the first month; cf. my article "Recent Investigations in the Sumerian Calendar," *JAOS*, XXXII.

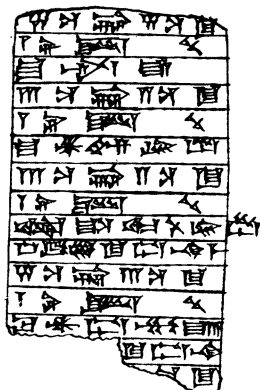
⁸ *Sic!*

formed cone which bears this same inscription, character for character. Mr. Vaux's cone is $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches long and 2 inches in diameter at the head. The inscription reads:

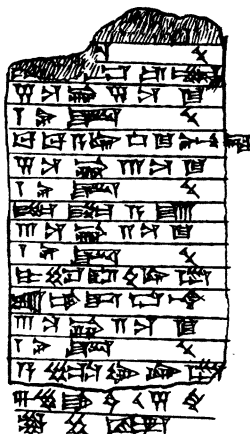
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ^d NIN-GIR-SU | 1. Ningirsu, |
| 2. UR-SAG KAL-GA | 2. the mighty warrior |
| 3. ^d EN-LIL-LAL-RA | 3. of Enlil, |
| 4. GU-DÉ-A | 4. Gudea, |
| 5. PA-TE-SI | 5. Patesi |
| 6. ŠIR-PUR-LA ^{ki} -GE | 6. of Lagash, |
| 7. NIG-DÚ-E PA-MU-NA-È | 7. all that is fitting he has done; |
| 8. E-NINNŪ ^d IM-GIG ^{bu} BAR-BAR-
RA-NI | 8. E-ninnû, (viz.:-) Im-GIG, the
brilliant, |
| 9. MU-NA-RU | 9. he built, |
| 10. KI-BI MU-NA-GÍ | 10. its place he restored. |

No. 7

Ob.



Rev.



No. 2.

Ob.

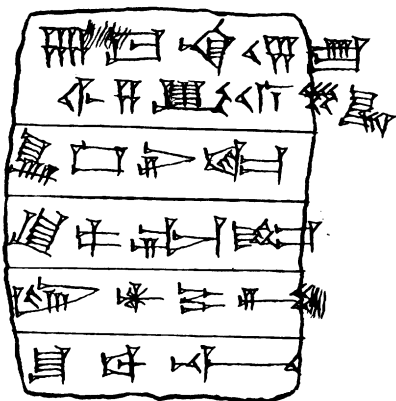


Rev.

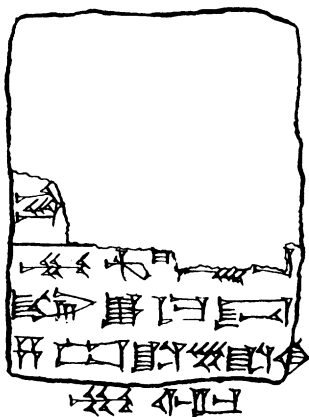


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Ob.

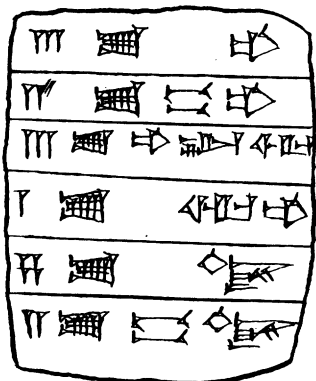


Rev

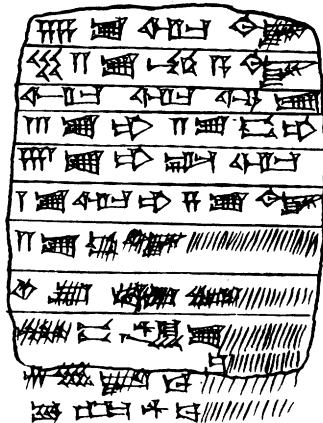


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Ob.

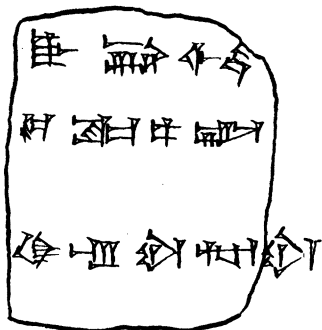


Rev.

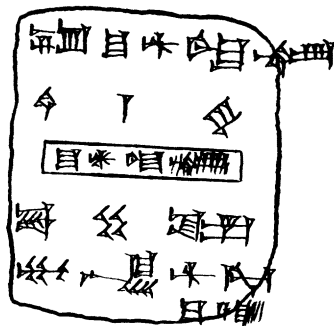


No. 5.

Ob.



Rev.

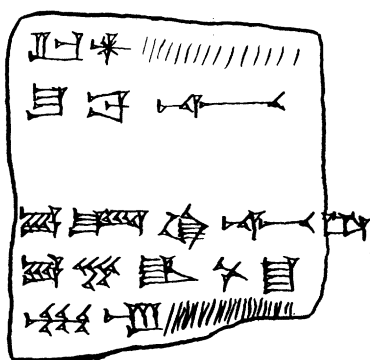


No. 6.

Ob.



Rev.



Seal.



No. 7.

Text.



Seal.



No. 8.

